AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) ~~Protective~~ A protective composition for [[the]] strands of sheathed cables ~~for permanent structures~~, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition is constituted by a viscoelastic gel obtained by slow in situ polymerization, after injection at ambient temperature into the sheath surrounding the strands and in the presence of a swelling solvent, of monomeric or pre-polymeric reagents which are:

a) identical or different vinyl monomers, polymerizable by free radical technique, or

b) bifunctional or trifunctional compounds of two different types reacting with each other to give bidimensional or tridimensional polymers, or

c) mixtures of a) and b).

17. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bi- or tri-functional compounds are polyols and polyisocyanates giving polyurethanes.

18. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bi- or

tri-functional compounds are bi- or tri-functional epoxy compounds and diamines or triamines giving cross-linked epoxy resins.

19. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it moreover~~ wherein said composition contains an anti-corrosion agent.

20. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the anti-corrosion agent is an inorganic compound of the phosphate type or an organic compound of the polyaniline type.

21. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that in the case of epoxy resins, the~~ wherein an anti-corrosion agent is constituted by an excess of diamine or triamine such that the final composition has a pH $\geq$ 12.

22. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid esters, ~~phtalic~~ phthalic acid esters or saturated or unsaturated aliphatic acid esters having in the aliphatic chain at least 10 carbon atoms, aromatic or polycyclic hydrocarbons, terpenes and ~~phenlic~~ phenolic ethers ~~if desired lightly polymerized~~.

23. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition contains 10 to 90% by weight of polymer and 90 to 10%

by weight of swelling solvent~~, and preferably 15 to 55% by weight of polymer~~.

24. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ wherein said composition comprises:

. Bisphenol A:	30% by weight
. Cresylglycidyl ether:	2% by weight
. Blocked isocyanate prepolymer	20% by weight
. Aliphatic amines + aliphatic amine prepolymer:	11% by weight

and

. Neutral and non-reactive aromatic petroleum resins and/or modified hydroxylated petroleum resins (swelling solvent):	37% by weight.

25. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ wherein said composition comprises:

. Bisphenol A:	17% by weight
. (2-ethylhexyl) glycidylether:	3% by weight
. Blocked isocyanate prepolymer	5% by weight
. Polyaminoimidazoline:	11% by weight

and

. Neutral and non-reactive aromatic petroleum resins and/or modified hydroxylated petroleum resins (swelling solvent):	64% by weight.

26. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ wherein said composition comprises:

. Bisphenol A:	9% by weight
. Glycidylether:	2% by weight
. Blocked isocyanate prepolymer	2% by weight
. Polyaminoimidazoline:	5% by weight

and

. Neutral and non-reactive aromatic petroleum resins and/or modified hydroxylated petroleum resins (swelling solvent):	82% by weight.

27. (currently amended) ~~Composition~~ The composition according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ wherein said composition comprises:

. Butanediol + polyoxymethyleneglycol	58.1% by weight
. Prepolymer of MDI (diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate):	11.9% by weight

and

. Diisobutyl phtalate (swelling solvent):	30% by weight.

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) ~~The use of a composition according to claim 16, to increase~~ A method for increasing the shock absorbing coefficient of cables ~~for permanent structures~~, comprising injecting the composition according to claim 16 into a sheath of said cable and polymerizing said composition in situ.

30. (new) The composition according to claim 23, wherein said composition comprises 15 to 55% by weight of a polymer.

31. (new) A method of protecting strands of a sheathed cable, comprising injecting a protective composition into said sheathed cable, wherein said protective composition is constituted by a viscoelastic gel obtained by slow in situ polymerization, after injection at ambient temperature into the sheath surrounding the strands and in the presence of a swelling solvent, of monomeric or pre-polymeric reagents which are:

a) identical or different vinyl monomers, polymerizable by free radical technique, or

b) bi-functional or tri-functional compounds of two different types reacting with each other to give bi-dimensional or tri-dimensional polymers, or

c) mixtures of a) and b).

32. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the bi- or tri-functional compounds are polyols and polyisocyanates giving polyurethanes.

33. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the bi- or tri-functional compounds are bi- or tri-functional epoxy compounds and diamines or triamines giving cross-linked epoxy resins.

34. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein said composition contains an anti-corrosive agent.

35. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the anti-corrosion agent is an inorganic compound of a phosphate type or an organic compound of the polyaniline type.

36. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the anti-corrosion agent is constituted by an excess of diamine or triamine such that the final composition has a pH $\geq$ 12.